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veterans' homes are under the direction of the Health and Human Services. My ambition has been, the last couple years and this year, to move them under the Office of Veterans' Affairs. However, this year the Governor has decided to put the director of the Veterans' Affairs directly in charge of the veterans' homes, but still leaving the veterans' homes under the Health and Human Services Department, which we have agreed, "we" being myself and the people I represent, the veterans, people from the veterans' home, the military veterans' affairs...Government Affairs Committee, Senator Schimek and her colleagues or that committee, have agreed to let this go this way, this year, and to keep an eye on them to see if this is going to improve at all in making them veterans' homes more accessible, opening up more beds, taking care of the staff needs and so forth.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. I had done that same type legislation myself, Senator Pedersen, several years ago and was not successful with it. But my concern, of course, is the welfare of those veterans, because I think sometimes they think that they've been relegated to a backseat in this process, and I don't think that we should let that happen. So I'm still concerned about service delivery and keeping the...keeping these veterans well cared for. And I think that's going to happen, but I just wanted you to put that on the record for me how this is supposed to take place. And I wanted to put on the record myself, I think, the necessity for continual vigilance about care for these veterans, because they are a very vulnerable group and don't have a whole lot of representation in this Legislature. And I would...just for the record I wanted that to be there. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Janssen, on the committee amendments. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, I wanted to elaborate a little bit on what's happening at our veterans' homes. I did a little checking this winter about the turnover rate and the turnover rate at our veterans' home is almost double what it is in the private industry; I'm talking about the nursing homes that are privately owned and...or owned by a hospital. And at those particular rest homes the turnover